

"A lady of grace and nobility. A legacy of inspiration and passion."

Alice Haigazian Berman, first generation American daughter of Armenian immigrants, Avedis and Baidzar Haigazian. She was born in Chicago, lived in Los Angeles, New York City, Ocala Florida. Wife of Harry Berman of the Music Corporation of America. Mother of Lloyd Berman Bellows.

Alice was a tenacious advocate for recognition of the 1915 Genocide that took the lives of over one and a half million Armenians, including several members of her mother's family. She was a classical Ballet instructor, a champion of the arts, a horse breeder, a registered securities broker. She wrote radio copy as a student. She appeared in traveling theatrical productions that included such personalities as Bob Hope, Harvey Korman and Dom Deluise. Alice was a mentor of young people and an inspiration and role model for all. Her character and undying spirit will be missed by all who knew her and all those whose lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF 2012 FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of local Fairfax County historians and to congratulate the recipients of the 2012 Fairfax County History Commission Awards.

Established in 1969, the Fairfax County History Commission continues to pursue its goal of helping to identify, document, record, and preserve Fairfax County's historic past. Most recently, the Commission has focused on local aspects of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The Commission consists of a 20 member board appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The History Commission annually recognizes research and achievements in Fairfax County history as well as historic preservation. It is my honor to enter the names of the following 2012 recipients of the Fairfax County History Commission Awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

The Nan Netherton Award: C. Denise Barrett for her work in chronicling the history of the Lakewood Estates neighborhood in Southwest Fairfax County.

The C.J.S. Durhan Award: Lisa Friedrich Becker for her nomination of the Sydenstricker School to the National Registry and efforts to renovate that site.

The Beth Mitchell Award: David G. Farmer for his collection of Flint Hill Cemetery records going back to 1875.

The Distinguished Service Award: Evelyn Fox for her work on the play and subsequent video "Capitan John Smith: A History of McLean & Great Falls, Virginia."

The Lifetime Achievement Award: Suzanne Levy for her more than 30 years of service in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax City Library and her devotion to promoting history, genealogy and historical preservation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2012 Fairfax County His-

tory Commission Awards recipients and in commending the Commission's continued efforts to preserve, identify, document and record the history of Fairfax County.

IN HONOR MR. FRED ZIWICH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Fred Ziwich, who is one of the country's prominent polka musicians.

Mr. Ziwich began playing the accordion at the young age of five. In 1977, at the age of 14, he began studying the clarinet and formed his band, the International Sound Machine. Mr. Ziwich also began playing the button box in high school. Later, he would earn a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Indiana University.

As a child, Mr. Ziwich was heavily influenced by Slovenian polka artists, Johnny Pecon and Eddie Stampfl. He transformed that influence into a polka style that is unique and well-received throughout the world. Mr. Ziwich is best known for his Viennese Waltzes and Slovenian Polkas. He is an accomplished musician who is proficient at playing the accordion, button box, saxophone, clarinet, flute and drums among others. Throughout his career in the music industry he has collaborated with artists such as Hank Haller, Don Lipovac and Adam Barthalt.

A full-time musician, Mr. Ziwich has continued to play the accordion with the International Sound Machine for more than thirty years. In 2007, the band was nominated for a Grammy Award. In addition to being an international Grammy nominee, Mr. Ziwich has been honored on numerous occasions by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame. He is the recipient of accolades which include being named the Musician of the Year, Button Box Musician of the Year and producing the Recording of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Fred Ziwich, a polka legend from Northeast Ohio.

IN HONOR OF JOHN T. COLLINS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John T. Collins, II, MPH who served for the past ten years as an elected Trustee of the Santa Cruz City School Board. A native of Santa Cruz, California, Mr. Collins earned his Master of Public Health Degree from San Jose State University, and his Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Human Services Administration from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. In addition, I am honored to know John on a personal level as a dear friend.

As the Senior Vice President of Workforce Development Programs to Goodwill Industries of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. John brought his passion for creating opportunities into the Santa Cruz

schools as an advocate for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, ensuring services to children with disabilities. He also addressed the needs of the Spanish speaking community with programs to help early language learners, and promoted the School to Careers program.

During his tenure, the Board passed four parcel taxes enabling them to build a new pool and a stadium for two high schools, improve their IT infrastructure, make classroom upgrades, and place solar arrays on nearly every school. Those years also saw improved test scores and college admission rates including to the highest ranked colleges such as the UC Berkeley, Harvard, Princeton, UCLA and Stanford.

Mr. Speaker, as John steps down as Trustee, I know that the many projects, issues, and problems that he helped tackle and solve have made the school district a better place for learning and growing. His guidance enriched the lives of the students, as well as the Monterey Bay region as a whole, and I know the whole House joins me in thanking John for his years of leadership in public education—well done!

INTRODUCTION OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 2012

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Global Partnerships Act of 2012, a bill to establish a framework for effective, transparent, and accountable United States foreign assistance.

This legislation represents the culmination of nearly five years of effort, starting in March 2008 when I assumed the chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In reviewing the vast array of issues and problems that demanded the Committee's time and attention, I decided that reform of our antiquated foreign aid system should be high on the agenda.

At a time when our headlines are dominated by urgent crises and new openings abroad—whether it's the rebellion in Syria, the humanitarian catastrophe in Congo or the transition in Burma—some have questioned why I would choose to focus on foreign aid reform. The answer is really quite simple: because our foreign assistance laws have a significant impact on our ability to respond to all of those events.

Regrettably, over the past few years we have witnessed an increasingly destructive and divisive assault on our foreign assistance program and on U.S. international engagement more broadly. It is easy to find fault with the current system, but rather than taking cheap shots and mindlessly slashing programs, I believe it is incumbent upon us to find a responsible way to fix them.

It makes no sense that, under the current system, it is almost impossible to give small grants directly to local groups that are leading the way towards peaceful, democratic change. Our diplomats and development professionals shouldn't have to sit at their desks writing reports that duplicate information that is easily available on the Internet. There ought not to be situations where two agencies are doing the same thing in the same place and aren't even aware of it—or worse yet, undermining each other's efforts.